

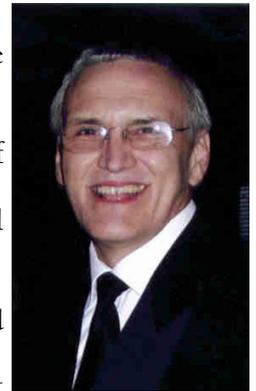


MUSINGS

The fall program at New England Church is upon us once again, and I invite you to join us for the exciting events forthcoming.

Our annual **Fall Festival** on September 8 will begin the new program year with the opening day of our Church School classes and the Festival lunch and games at 11:00 am. The meal will be in Friendship Hall with outside games and a bouncy room for the kids. The Board of Missions will provide root beer floats as usual. Everyone is invited.

Also on **September 8**, the piano quartet consisting of Jon Warfel, Ina Heup, Arlene Thurow, and Yours Truly will dedicate a newly-commissioned arrangement of hymns to Marilyn Parolini, organist/pianist/accompanist, to say thanks for her years of service. Marilyn continues to play at the 8:30 am service and will accompany the Children's Choir this year as well as organize the annual Pianorama November 24 (how many hands will play on how many pianos this year??). Mark Hayes, the composer and arranger of this piece will be present to hear this work played for the first time. We hope you'll join us at the 10:00 am service!



On **September 15**, our 2019 **Confirmands** will receive their name tags and begin their high school journey through our youth program.

An **Inquirer's Meeting** will be held September 15 at 11:15 am for those interested in learning about the ministry and program of NECC and on September 22 at 11:15 am a **Building Tour** will be offered to introduce you to the nooks and crannies of our buildings and campus. See the details further along in this issue of Tidings.

Though we grieve the closing of our Preschool after 70 years of providing quality education for children, we celebrate that **World Relief** will be using the preschool rooms for their English as a Second Language (ESL) classes this year. Their program year begins September 4 from 9:30 – 11:30 am M-Th.

It's a privilege for New England Church to host the upcoming concert series of **The Orion Ensemble**, one of Chicago's premier ensembles. Four concerts are scheduled to be held in our sanctuary on September 29 at 7:00 pm; November 10 at 7:00 pm; March 1 at 3:00 pm; and May 3 at 7:00 pm. This ensemble of cello, clarinet, violin, viola, and piano will perform works of major composers as well as those of the not-so-well-known composers. A reception will follow each concert in the narthex. Brochures are available in the literature rack for advance ticket purchases; or you can buy them at the door.

On another subject, I want to thank everyone for staying current with your pledges and financial contributions. New England Church plays an important part in the lives of many people—those who are part of the church as well as people in the community who are served by the outreach ministry of the church. With rampant racism, xenophobia, homophobia, prejudice, and radical white supremacy on the rise, it is critical that we maintain our witness of inclusivity, liberty, and justice for all. Thanks for your continued support as we enter into this new program year.

Gary



LEARN ABOUT NECC



An Inquirer's Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, September 15 at 11:15 am for those interested in learning more about New England Church. A PowerPoint presentation will inform you of our ministry, our history, and our programs, and Gary will respond to questions you may have about the church. Attending this meeting does not obligate anyone to join the church but we want people

who are interested to learn more about us.

If you're interested, please contact Kimberly Adams, Community Life Director, (kimberly@newenglandchurch.org).

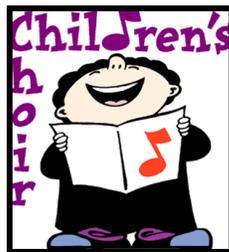
A Building Tour will be offered on Sunday, September 22 at 11:15 am for those interested in touring our campus and learning a bit of the history of our building. If you are interested, please contact Kimberly Adams.

FRANCE ANYONE?

There is still availability for the 2020 Road Trip and/or Viking Cruise in France. Please see the brochures in the literature rack for information or on the church website. Contact Gary (gary@newenglandchurch.org).



Children's Choir Begins



Calling all children who love to sing! Starting this fall, the children's choir will meet every week.

Beginning on Sunday, September 15, the children will rehearse from 11:15 am until 12 noon in Johnson Chapel.

The choir is open to anyone in grades 1-8 who enjoys singing and making new friends. The children will sing once a month during the 10:00 am service and will present a musical in the

Spring. Please feel free to contact me, Ina Heup, at 630-851-5364 or at

iheup@aol.com with any questions or concerns about the children's choir.

I look forward to making joyful noise with our eager young singers this fall!

Fall Festival

NECC's Annual Fall Festival Celebration is Sunday, September 8. The indoor picnic begins after the 10:00 am service with delicious food and fellowship in Friendship Hall. There will be a bounce house, face painting by Dots & Splashes and a piñata set up in the church garden for the children to enjoy. We invite everyone to join and bring your friends and neighbors.



We will need lots of donations; cookies, fresh fruit, salad ingredients and more. Please watch for sign-ups in the church Marketplace so you can help.

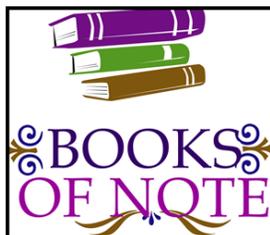
Volunteers Needed



We continue to stock shelves at the Aurora Area Interfaith Food Pantry every second and third Mondays at 3:00 pm. Thanks to all who have helped and will continue to help. The Pantry has asked that all volunteers be 13 years of age or older due to liability. Thank you.

Books of Note

Books of Note will be meeting again in September to discuss *The 100-Year-Old Man Who Climbed Out the Window and Disappeared* by Jonas Jonasson.



This novel has been described by the *Library Journal* as "A quirky novel that is a sly, satirical look back at international relations in the 20th century through the eyes of an old man who has seen it all." This should make for a lively discussion after our return from our summer hiatus. We meet every month on the third Tuesday at 7:00 pm in the parlor. Everyone is welcome to join us on Tuesday, September 17, whether you have read the book or not.

In October, we will be reading Michelle Obama's memoir *Becoming*. We look forward to hearing what you have been reading over the summer so that we can choose selections for the rest of year. We hope to see you there!



Exploring the United Church of Christ-*Keeping in Touch*

The United Church of Christ used to have Denominational magazines that published a great variety of articles related to the church, our faith, and the ins and outs of the denomination. Many of us remember the United Church Herald, and its successor "A.D.", very fondly. But the days of print publishing are quickly disappearing. Today, it's the internet that holds sway.

For members and friends of the United Church of Christ, the best way to keep up on what is happening in the denomination is by going to its website, <http://www.UCC.org>. The site offers a variety of options that include everything from a history of the UCC to worship resources as well as the Justice and Peace ministries that compel us to faith in action. Worship resources include articles on communion, baptism, and the use of inclusive language. There are excellent articles on the Three Great Loves and Global Ministries, as well as an app to help you find a local UCC congregation. There is plenty to explore on the website, and it's well worth the effort to look around and discover the many facets of our denomination.

There is also an excellent section that will introduce you to the Rev. John C. Dorhauer, President and General Minister of the United Church of Christ. John C. Dorhauer was recently re-elected at the 32nd General Synod that was held this past June in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. A United Church Facebook page can be found at <https://www.facebook.com/UnitedChurchofChrist>.

Another great way of keeping in touch is to subscribe to "Keeping You Posted." This is a weekly, coordinated e-zine of news, featured items, resources, worship materials, and justice-action items e-mailed each Tuesday. It's a free subscription, all you have to do is sign up and it will be sent to your email address. You can find directions for sign up on the website, or go directly to https://www.ucc.org/keeping_you_posted.

As I shared earlier, the United Church of Christ is structured from the local church up, rather than from the National offices down. New England Congregational Church is an autonomous congregation that lives in a covenant relationship with other UCC congregations in the area and nationally. We are one of forty-four churches that make up the Fox Valley Association, which is one of five Associations that make up the Illinois Conference. You can find the website for the Fox Valley Association at <http://foxvalley.ilucc.org/foxvalley-association/>.

The Illinois Conference is composed of five Associations numbering 241 churches. Our churches range from the largest UCC congregation in the nation – Trinity UCC in Chicago – to numerous small rural churches far removed from the large urban area of Chicago. Our mission statement, adopted in 2009, reads: "The Illinois Conference is a United Church of Christ covenant community promoting congregational health and vitality and pursuing God's peace and justice. The Illinois Conference website is <http://ilucc.org/illinois-conference/>.

You may want to be involved in the Greater Church as a visitor or by serving as a delegate from our church to the Association and Conference meetings. Each congregation is allowed to send delegates as voting members of the Association or Conference, as well as any number of visitors who desire to attend. It's a great way to be active in the church and to meet and mingle with a widely diverse fellowship representing the wider church.

Go, in Grace and Peace.

Rev. Fred Krauss

Aurora Area Interfaith Food Pantry Gala



Support the Aurora Area Interfaith Food Pantry! Celebrate the Harvest Moon at AAIFP's annual Fundraising gala on October 5 at Pipers Banquets in Aurora.

This year's event will feature beer, wine and whiskey tasting, great music, a full open bar, fall-themed cuisine, live and silent auctions.

Tickets are \$150 and each ticket provides \$400 of food to families in need in our community.

Save the date on your calendars for this amazing event!

Stop by the Marketplace in September to pick up an invitation.

Remember – when you purchase your tickets from the Food Pantry, tell them you would like to be seated with the New England Church Group!

Women's Circle of Friends

Summer is winding down, but Women's Circle of Friends is gearing up for a new season. All women of the church are invited to our first meeting on Saturday, September 14 at 9:30 am for breakfast.

We will be trying out the new Sugar Grove Cafe located on Highway 30, across from the Air Classics Museum at the Sugar Grove Airport. Please sign up on line or in the church office. We encourage you to bring a friend!



Women's Circle of Friends is sponsoring a Marketplace on Saturday, November 16 in Friendship Hall. This is an opportunity for NECC women and their friends to share their hobbies, part time jobs, and passions with us. Previously we have enjoyed and purchased jewelry, Pampered Chef products, hand made bears, massages, international products, scarves, Thirty-One products and more! If you are interested in selling something or need more information, contact Linda Bridgman (linda4cacfp@aol.com) or Judy McCann (judycarol48@sbcglobal.net). Mark November 16 at 9:30 am, on your calendar to join us for breakfast, followed by an opportunity to sell and/or buy products made or sold by NECC women and their friends!



'A Broadway Revue'

Save The Date for our upcoming - Broadway Revue Saturday Evening, November 2.

New England's Musical Talents are back. Enjoy a fabulous night out; full of food, music, fun, and friends.

The Chancel Choir annual fall potluck/rehearsal will be held on Wednesday, September 4 at 6:30 pm. We will begin with dinner in Friendship Hall followed by a rehearsal in the Sanctuary. Please bring a dish to pass and table setting. Beverages will be provided.



September, 2019
Vol. 8

Tiny Tidings



Make sure to mark your calendar on Sept. 8th as the first day of church school for the 2019-2020 school year. The theme for the upcoming year is:

SPEAKING IN THE LIGHT OF GOD.

REGISTRATION 2019-2020

Our fall registration is on its way and to ensure we have every child accounted for our church school program, we are asking families to please complete and return the 2019-2020 Church School Registration form by August 25th. Please take note, we are asking families to complete a registration form for each child participating in our upcoming church school program. The forms can be picked up and returned directly to Audra Darche in the church school office. Extra forms can also be picked up in the church school hallway. Please remember to register your child/children/grandchildren by August 25th, so we can have rosters and name tags ready for each child.



WRAPPING UP THE SUMMER

Throughout the summer, many church school children participated in our Summer Adventure: Thinking Green which took place on Sunday mornings. During this time, the children were encouraged to think "outside of the box" and identify ways we can care for our earth. To promote this thinking, the children were exposed to a variety of guest speakers. Such speakers included representatives from several local forest preserves to passionate members of our congregation. Each brought hands on learning to the children while sharing their passion and expertise. Overall, it was apparent that all of our speakers were excited about preserving this wonderful world we live on. While learning so much valuable information, the children were also able to participate in a mission project in which they collected needed supplies for the Fox Valley Wildlife Center. **THANK YOU** to all who helped make this program a success and it is our hope that the children walked away with one or two things they can do to help preserve our earth for years to come.

SONGS OF PRAISE



This year the church school program is excited to have our very own: Ina Heup as our new Children's Music Director. **BEGINNING ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15TH, OUR CHILDREN'S MUSIC PROGRAM WILL HAVE PRACTICE EACH SUNDAY AFTER CHURCH FROM 11:15-12:00 PM.** In addition, Mrs. Heup will also be joining our church school classes one time per month to work with all of our Prek-6th grade children. This in turn will provide all the children an opportunity to participate in our music program. If you have any questions about the Children's Music Program, please contact Ina Heup.

TEACHER SIGN UP

In order for New England to provide a quality church school, we will be asking for parent volunteers to teach a two-week unit beginning Sept. 15th-Dec. 22nd. The rooms are set up ahead of time, plans will be prepared, and your children will love having you as their teacher! A new teacher sign-up sheet for 2019-2020 school year is now hanging in the church school hallway.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO SIGN UP FOR A TWO- WEEK UNIT.



REMINDER

FALL CHURCH PICNIC ON SUNDAY

SEPTEMBER 8TH IMMEDIATELY AFTER CHURCH.

HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!



SUMMER ADVENTURES

The children learned about what happens to our trash that we throw away. Some trash goes into landfills and some end up in our oceans. The kids also talked about accidents that cause pollution in our waters... like oil spills. The kids did an experiment to show how oil can hurt the animals and how they can help clean up the animals so they won't be harmed by the oil.



The Fox Valley Wild Life Center brought animals for the children to interact with.



Jon Koepke came and led a lesson on erosion, plants, and water quality.

YOUTH TIDINGS

SEPTEMBER, 2019

104TH EDITION



5TH & 6TH GRADE

Welcome back 5th and 6th graders! We have an exciting year planned! **Classes are held in the 5th/6th grade room located on the 3rd floor next to the bell choir room.** We will have our first music lesson this month. Please remember to check your emails periodically for updates regarding events. See everyone at the Fall festival on September 8th!

HIGH SCHOOL

We are so excited for another church school year to get underway! **Youth Group classes will officially start on Sunday, September 15th at 11:05am over at the Chestnut House.** During this time, the students will have an opportunity to connect with one another while also staying informed of the fun events that are up and coming for the youth.

UPCOMING HIGH SCHOOL EVENTS:

SEPTEMBER 28 Balaxi's (formerly Glow Zone)
OCTOBER 14TH Six Flags

More detailed information will be going out via email regarding both of these events so please keep an eye out for them. Should have any questions about the Youth Group or anything related to the Youth Group, please contact Lesley Myers at Lesley. myers@mchsi.com or 773-255-1010.

IT'S GOING TO BE A GREAT YEAR!!

CONFIRMATION

CONFIRMATION SUMMER TRIP TO LAKE MICHIGAN

In August, New England church member, John McKee, generously hosted ten confirmation students and five adult chaperones at his vacation home in Harbart near beautiful Lake Michigan. Students enjoyed swimming and team building games, a trip to the Warren Dunes, a campfire on the beach with S'mores, and a great discussion about empathy and seeing the world through someone else's eyes.



to John McKee for hosting, and to the following adult chaperones: Audra Darché, Rick & Desiree Guzman, Kathy Kokkinos, Megan Mathis, and Scott Myers.

SEPTEMBER IN CONFIRMATION

Confirmation students are spending our September classes getting to know each other better, discussing the differences between Truth and Fact when it comes to the Creation narratives in Genesis, and learning about "God's Covenant" with Abraham.

**FALL FESTIVAL - SEPTEMBER 8TH
AFTER 10 O'CLOCK SERVICE**

CONFIRMATION SUMMER TRIP



**“God
Is Still
Speaking”**



New England Congregational
Church-UCC
406 W. Galena Blvd. Aurora, IL. 60506
Phone: 630.897.8721
Fax: 630.897.8744
Email: office@newenglandchurch.org
A Caring Church for Thinking People

Visit us on the web
at
www.newenglandchurch.org

Joys & Concerns

Baptisms:

Tim Edward Kanive Jr., son of Tim & Sarah Kanive.
Lucas Alexander Panozzo, son of Jason & Melissa Panozzo.

Hospitalized:

Ron Nickerson, John Williams, John Roesch, Joann Patton.

Deaths:

We offer our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of
Virginia Gurry and Gary Hurt.



OUR STAFF & CHURCH OFFICERS

Senior Minister: Gary L. McCann
Assistant to the Minister: Martin Forward
Office Administrator: Shelley Lund
Director of Education Ministries: Audra Darché
5th & 6th Grade Education: Kathy Kokkinos
7th & 8th Grade Education: Desiree Guzman
9th–12th Grade Education: Lesley Myers
Children’s Choir Director: Ina Heup
Chancel Choir Director: Jon Warfel
Organist: Marsha Foxgrover
Assistant Organist: Marilyn Parolini
Handbell Director: Cathy Canfield-Jepson
Director of Community Life: Kimberly Adams
Wedding Coordinator: Nancy Richmond
Nursery Care: Jenni Moses, Hannah Watkins
Custodian: John Hett
Building Maintenance: Todd Jones

Moderator: Brian Kleemann
Moderator-elect: Judy Lopez
Treasurer: Andy Sprau
Clerk: Sally Floyd